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Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 012850
O 141520Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7293
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 14246

EXDIS

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, LE
SUBJECT: GALLAGHER/DYKES KIDNAPPING

REF: STATE 269487

1. IN OUR VIEW, WE ARE CONFRONTING ONCE AGAIN (AS IN THE CASE OF COL. MORGAN) THE CLASSIC PROBLEM OF ATTEMPTING TO DEAL WITH AN ORGANIZATION CLOSELY ALLIED WITH THE REJECTION FRONT -- I.E., IT HAS LIMITED, BUT NOT RPT NOT TOTAL RESPONSIVENESS TO THE MAINLINE FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS. THIS IS A PARTICULARLY ACUTE DISADVANTAGE AT THE PRESENT MOMENT WHEN BOTH THE MAINLINE PALESTINIANS SUBJECT TO 'ARAFAT'S INFLUENCE AND THE GOL HESITATE TO BRING ABOUT A CONFRONTATION WITH THE REJECTIONISTS (AS 'ARAFAT DID IN EARLY JULY WITH REGARD TO THE MORGAN CASE) WHICH COULD ENDANGER THE GENERAL PRECARIOUS SITUATION IN THIS CITY AND COUNTRY.

2. AL 'ARAB AND HIS NASSERITE "CORRECTIVE MOVEMENT" ARE NOT RPT NOT COMPLETELY IMMUNE TO THE INFLUENCE OF FATAH AND 'ARAFAT, BUT HE IS SOMEWHAT IMPERVIOUS, AS ARE OTHER GROUPS ALLIED WITH THE REJECTION FRONT, TO PERSUASION AND NON-CREDIBLE PRESSURE FROM FATAH. AL 'ARAB IS PRIMARILY ALIGNED WITH THE PFLP AND, CONSEQUENTLY,
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DERIVES ITS SUPPORT FROM THE MELANGE OF SUPPLIERS TO THE

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PFLP -- I.E., LIBYA AND IRAQ. HE ALSO--AND HEREIN LIES
HIS CONTINUING SEMI-RESPONSIVENESS TO FATAH - PROBABLY
DRAWS ARMS AND AMMUNITION FROM PLO DEPOTS. WHILE 'ARAFAT
MAY BE CONSIDERED ULTIMATE SLEDGEHAMMER IN THIS CASE, WE
WOULD NOT RPT NOT CONSIDER HIM "KEY TO RELEASE".

3. EMBASSY DOES NOT RPT NOT YET HAVE REPORT OF 'ARAFAT'S
NOV 8 MEETING WITH AL'ARAB, OR ON RESULTS OF MOST RECENT
ATAH INTERMEDIARY ATTEMPTS.

4. OUR INFORMATION ON PTENTIAL INFLUENCE OF IBRAHIM
QULAYLAT OVER AL 'ARAB IS MIXED. WE WOULD PLACE
QULAYLAT NEAR THE MIDDLE OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM
BETWEEN THE LOCAL NASSERITE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH CONTINUE
TO BE RESPONSIVE TO SYRIA AND THE "MODERATE" PALES-
TINIANS (E.G., KAMAL SHATILA AND NAJAH WAKIM) AND THOSE,
SUCH AS AL 'ARAB, WHO ARE NOT UNDER THEIR CONTROL.
QULAYLAT HAS CLEARLY EMERGED IN RECENT MONTHS AS THE
MOST INFLUENTIAL LEBANESE MUSLIM IN WEST BEIRUT, BUT HIS
RELATIONSHIP WITH AL 'ARAB IS NOT WELL-DEFINED IN OUR
MINDS. WE RECEIVED ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORT I LATE
OCTOBER THAT AL 'ARAB'S GOONS (ESTIMATED AT 100 TO 150)
HAD BEEN PLACED UNDER QULAYLAT'S COMMAND (ESTIMATED
AT 450 TO 500 MEN). ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAVE ALSO
RECEIVED UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS OF FRICTION BETWEEN
QULAYLAT AND AL 'ARAB.

5. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, UP TO NOW WE HAVE BEEN MAINTAINING
A LOW PROFILE ON THE KIDNAPPING OF GALLAGHER AND DYKES.
WE HAD THOUGHT THIS WAS WISE AND WAS THE POSITION MOST
CONDUCIVE TO AN EARLY RELEASE. YESTERDAY, HOWEVER, WHEN
I SAW PRIME MINISTER (EMBTEL 14199) WE DISCUSSED WHETHER
HE SHOULD INDICATE TO PRESS THAT I WAS CALLING ON HIM
ON THIS MATTER. I TOLD HIM THAT I WISHED HIS ADVICE AND WE
AGREED NOT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT UNTIL HE SAW THE
RSISTANCE LEADERS LAST NIGHT AND AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON.
NOTWITHSTANDING THIS FACT, AND UPON RECEIPT OF DEPTEL
WE HAVE DECIDED TO RE-INTENSIFY CONTACTS ALREADY
MADE AND THROW OUT ADDITIONAL LINES. IN THIS CONNECTION,
WE HAVE JUDGED IT NO LONGER EXPEDIENT IN OUR PRIVATE
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CONTACTS WITH POTENTIAL INTERMEDIARIES TO CONCEAL
OUR CONVICTION THAT GALLAGHER AND DYKES ARE HELD BY
AL 'ARAB. WE HAVE TODAY (NOV 14) TAKEN THE FOLLOWING
ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES:
A) ABBAS KHALAF, DEPUTY TO KAMAL JUMBLATT WITH WHOM
WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED MATTER, HAS BEENINFORMED
OF AL 'ARAB CONNECTION AND HAS UNDERTAKEN TO TELEPHONE
AL 'ARAB, WITH WHOM HE SAYS HE HAS GOOD RELATIONSHIP.

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B) EMBOFF IS ATTEMPTING TO SET UP APPOINTMENT WITH JUMBLATT
PERSONALLY FURTHER TO UNDERLINE OUR CONCERN.
C) AMBASSADOR HAS TELEPHONED PAPAL NUNCIO TO ASK
CARDINAL BERTOLI, WHO IN LEBANON REPRESENTING THE POPE,
TO STRESS ISSUE IN APPROPRAITE CONTACTS. NUNCIO PRO-
MISED THAT BERTOLI WILL RAISE MATTER WITH BOTH 'ARAFAT
AND JUMBLATT IN SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS.
D) EMBOFF SEEKING TO ARRANGE INTERVIEW WITH QULAYLAT
OR, AT MINIMUM, MEANS OF PASSING MESSAGE TO HIM RE USG
CONCERN AT CONTINUED DETENTION.
E) EMBOFF HAS SET IN MOTION PROCESS BY WHICH
AHMAD YAMANI OF PFLP WILL BE ASKED BY "FRIEND" TO
SEEK RELEASE FROM AL 'ARAB ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS.
THIS RUBE GOLDBERG ARRANGEMENT HAS WORKED IN SECURING
PROMPT RELEASE FROM AL 'ARAB OF LEBANESE CHRISTIAN YOUTH
(EXPLANATORY MEMO, DATED NOV 10, POUCHED TO NEA/ARN
EARLIER THIS WEEK).
F) WE HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED CASE WITH RAYMOND
EDDE BUT TODAY ASKED HIM TO RAISE IT WITH AL 'ARAB
WHEN HE KNOWS.
G) AN RSC EMPLOYEE IS ENDEAVORING PASS WIVES'
MESSAGES VIA A LEFTIST FRIEND AND OBTAIN RESPONSES.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 012766
O 141520Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7294
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

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6. WE CONCUR FULLY THAT GOL PROBABLY IS RELUCTANT
TO APPLY PRESSURES TO EXTENT EXHIBITED IN MORGAN CASE
BECAUSE OF PRESENT DELICATE BALANCE IN SECURITY SITUATION.

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ANY ADDITIONAL PRESSURE THAT WE CAN APPLY TO THE GOL,
WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE LOW-PROFILE POSTURE ASSUMED
THUS FAR RPT THUS FAR, WOULD BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE. WE BELIEVE GOL IS
RELYING PRIMARILY ON FATAH, HENCE TO CERTAIN EXTENT
REINFORCING OUR INFORMANT B CONTACT.

7. ADDITIONAL INITAITIVES WHICH MIGHT BE POSSIBLE,
IF ABOVE EFFORTS CONTINUE TO PROVE UNAVAILING, ARE
FOLLOWING:
A) ENDEAVOR TO CONVINCE EXPECTED FRENCH MEDIATOR
(COUVE DE MURVILLE) TO REAISE QUESTION IN HIS LEBANESE
AND PALESTINIAN CONTACTS.
B) MAKE EFFORT TO CONVINCE IRAQI GOVT TO ASSUME
HELPFUL ROLE. THIS MIGHT HAVE DIRECT EFFECT ON
REJECTION FRON (ISSAM AL 'ARAB) POSITION. WE NOTE
THAT THE IRAQIS ARE NOW GENERALLY SUPPORTING EFFORTS
TO REGAIN STABILITY IN LEBANON AND SEEM SOMEWHAT
ANXIOUS TO ENHANCE THEIR IMAGE ALONG THESE LINES.
C) CONSIDER AN APPROACH THROUGH SOVIET INTER-
MEDIARIES, PERHAPS IN CONJUNCTION WITH APPROACH TO
IRAQIS OUTLINED IN (B) ABOVE. WE COULD HANDLE TIS
INITIATIVE LOCALLY.
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DL ATTEMPT TO INDUCE THE EGYPTIAN GOVT TO SELECT
PRESTIGIOUS INDIVIDUAL GENERALLY IDENTIFIED WITH
NASSER ERA AND DESPATCH HIM TO NEGOTIATION WITH AL
'ARAB. THIS MIGHT PROVIDE A FACE-SAVING DEVICE FOR THE
LATTER. INDIVIDUAL CHOSEN WOULD DEFINITELY NEED TO
BE NASSERITE OF OLD SCHOOL, HOWEVER, AND NOT RPT NOT
A SADAT MAN.
E) WE CONSIDERED AND DISCARDED IDEA OF DROPPING
STATEMENT HERE OR IN WASHINGTON ABOUT FACT THAT,
WITH CONTINUING DETENTION OF AMERICANS, USG REGRETFULLY
THINKING SERIOUSLY OF LAYING-OFF APPROXIMATELY 90 LEBA-
NESE AND PALESTINIANS EMPLOYED AT RSC AND DEPRIVED
OF THEIR LIVELIHOOD BY THIS SENSELESS ACT. SPOKESMAN
COULD CONTINUE TO UNDERLINE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF KIDNAPPING
ON AMERICAN BUSINESS IN GENERAL AND ANTICIPATED LOSS
OF JOBS IN LEBANON.

8. FOREGOING REPRESENTS EXTENT OF OUR IDEAS AT PRESENT
TIME. WE WILL CERTAINLY KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED,
SHOULD OTHER ALTERNATIVES OCCUR TO US AND WOULD APPRECIATE
RECEIVING REACTIONS TO PROPOSALS SET FORTH IN PARA 7.
GODLEY

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